REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 17, 2006. Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,673,373 to Nosaki et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,667,810 to Jeyachandran et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Figure 2 of applicant's specification illustrates an exemplary embodiment encompassing features, such as a storage device storing the print job data and the password received by a receiving unit in correspondence with each other, among others, recited in the independent claims. Figure 2 illustrates an exemplary controller unit 10 in the printer 100. After a print job is requested, central processing unit 20 temporarily stores the print job data and the password for executing the job transmitted from the computer 200 in a hard disk drive 21, and waits for a password to be entered by a user through the operating unit 11 of the printer 100. When a password matching the password corresponding to the stored print job is entered from the operating unit 11, the stored print job is executed and the data is printed out. Alternatively, the password may be transmitted through another user interface such as a PC 200.

The independent claims also recite the feature of the controller permitting, when the password accepted by a password accepting unit is a prescribed password different from the password stored in the storage device in correspondence with the print job data, a prescribed operation of the print job data stored in the storage device. Figure 3 illustrates the function of a super user. The super user password is

entered at step S303 as shown in Figure 3. The super user password is input via the operating unit 11 of the printer 100 or from the personal computer 200.

The print job data and password are stored in the hard disk drive 21, and can be either canceled or output, collectively or individually, by a super user whose password is accepted, thereby allowing a prescribed operation on the print job data stored in the storage device.

In contrast, the Nosaki et al. patent describes a system in which the print job data from terminal 1 is recorded in the hard disk drive 14 as a print queue. Further, if secret data is contained in the print command data, a correspondence table of print job numbers corresponding to user numbers is stored in the main memory 12. (Column 3, lines 31-34 and Column 5, lines 45-55). The operation of the system disclosed in the Nosaki et al. patent, will be generally described with reference to Figure 4 and the text in column 5, lines 45-55 and column 6, lines 14-30, of the data.

The CPU 11 in the file server 3 issues print job specific data to enable a user to discriminate print data when the print command data (1) is received from the user and retains a print job correspondence table 12a storing print job numbers corresponding to user numbers in the main memory 12. The print server 2 receives the print command data (3) for every job and rasterizes images on the page memory 46 when required.

The code data contained in the print command data (3) is rasterized by a printer controller 70 (Fig. 3). If the print data is for a secret printing, the print server 2 itself issues a password corresponding to each job after the image rasterizing ends in a group of print jobs comprising one to several pages. In certain embodiments,

the user inputs the password (column 7, lines 20-25). An answer data (4) showing this password, the end of the image rasterizing and job specific data are sent to the file server 3.

The CPU 11 of the file server 3 discriminates user-specific data as a job requesting user corresponding to print job specific data contained in the answer data (4) using the print job comparison table 12a and sends answer data (5) to the discriminated user, terminal 1.

The answer data (5) is composed of user-specific data as a destination, the file server as a sender, print job specific data, the rasterizing end data and a password. The answer data (5) is supplied to the controller and to terminal 1 and print job specific data corresponding to user-specific data and a password are displayed on the display unit. When the image rasterizing is completed, a user is informed of print job specific data and a password from the user print job comparison table. After image rasterizing, the rasterized image data is stored in a hard disk drive 14 in the file server 3 as the print queue. The printout is performed for the user by inputting user specific data and a password through the control panel 24 on the print server 2. (col. 6, lines 42-44; col. 7, lines 29-30; col. 12, lines 24-26 and col. 14, lines 12-15).

The Examiner admits that Nosaki et al. does not teach the claimed feature of wherein said controller permits, when the password accepted by said password accepting unit is a prescribed password different from the password stored in said storage device in correspondence with the print job data, a prescribed operation on the print job data stored in said device.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on the Jeyachandran et al. patent to disclose the features missing from the Nosaki et al. patent, in particular when said controller permits, when the password accepted by said password accepting unit is a prescribed password different from the password stored in said storage device in correspondence with the print job data, a prescribed operation of print job data stored in said storage device.

The Jeyachandran et al. patent discloses an apparatus and method for changing, adding and deleting print jobs from a print queue. The Examiner cites column 9, lines 24-45 of the Jeyachandran et al. patent as disclosing an operator identified as a manager having permission to delete all printing instructions stored in a print queue. Referring to page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the controller permitting, when the password accepted by said password accepting unit matches the password stored in said storage device in correspondence with the print data, print output as a print job data stored in said storage device in correspondence with said password is disclosed at column 7, lines 27-35. This citation is to the Summary of the Invention, which simply repeats the claim terminology. In order to understand what is meant by this passage, it is necessary to look to the disclosure of the reference as a whole. The Jeyachandran et al. patent discloses that the inputs from the user, as shown in Figure 3, are entered via a client component directly to the server component 103 which then interacts with the database manager 209 and the database 104. Any operations performed by the user through the client component 102 and server component 103 bypass any control features within the printer 206. This is supported by the description of Figure 3 shown in columns 17

and 18 of the Jeyachandran et al. patent. The Jeyachandran et al. patent does not

contemplate utilizing the printer 206 as a means for permitting a prescribed operation

on the print job data stored in the database 104 nor to interact with the database

manager 209.

The Examiner further states that when obtaining the print output, the print

output is performed for the user by inputting user specific data and a password

through the control panel 24. The referenced control panel 24 is located on the print

server 2 in the Nosaki et al. patent. The Nosaki et al. patent must input their

password through the print server control panel (col. 6, lines 42-44; col. 7, lines 29-

30; col. 12, lines 24-26 and col. 14, lines 12-15), and does not suggest or disclose

any alternatives.

Therefore, the Jeyachandran et al. patent does not disclose a management

control feature which performs its management role in a manner suggesting the

claimed feature of using a controller which also receives the password and print job

data in an apparatus for printing an image as recited in the independent claims. It

only discloses that the operator has the ability to perform management functions with

respect to the server component 103, not the print apparatus (column 24, line 40-

column 25, line 20).

It has been held that if the proposed modification or combination of the prior

art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified,

then the teachings of the reference are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie*

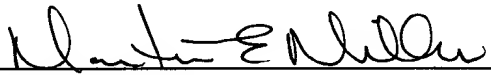obvious. *In re Ratti*, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959).

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: ___June 16, 2006___   By: _____

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